GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:489
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
NILGIRI TEA
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide Geographical Indicator Status to Nilgiris Tea on the lines of Darjeeling Tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a long pending demand to fix minimum support price for tea;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to hold more Tea Marketing Festivals in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) : Yes Sir, Tea Board has filed an application for registration of Nilgiri Orthodox Tea under the Geographical indications (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999.

(c) & (d) : There is a demand to fix minimum support price for tea. The quality of tea leaves and the made tea vary from one tea growing area to another depending upon the climatic and soil conditions, method of manufacture etc. Price of raw tea leaves and processed tea depend on their quality, gradation and demand in domestic and international market. In this situation it is not possible to fix minimum support price for raw tea leaves. However, a price sharing formula between the green tea leaf growers and the tea manufacturers is already in place under which both get a reasonable price based on sale proceeds of made tea.

(e) & (f) : The India International Tea Convention was held last year in Guwahati in November, 2007. The next Indian International Tea Convention will be held in Cochin from the 19th to the 21st February 2009. Tea Board of India and the United Planters' Association of Southern India (UPASI) under the aegis of the Consultative Committee of Plantation Association (CCPA) will be organizing this convention.